Amendment to Claim 22 (other claims remain unchanged):

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 11. (Previously Withdrawn):

12. (previously amended): The method of servicing a plurality of vending machines situated at disparate locations relative to one another within a location area, comprising the steps of:

a) polling each said machine, compiling identification, and updated sales and cash flow data for each machine, providing an updated data stream;

b) transmitting said updated data stream from a separate transmitter located near each said machine at predetermined intervals, providing updated transmissions within a reception area;

c) repeating steps a-b, while

d) providing a service vehicle having product inventory for said vending machines;

e) positioning said service vehicle within said reception area;

f) receiving said updated transmissions from each of said separate transmitters, providing a received data stream;

g) pulling inventory from said service vehicle based upon said sales and cash flow data for each vending machine conveyed in said received data stream, providing pulled inventory;

h) stocking each said vending machine as needed utilizing said pulled inventory.

13. (Original): The method of Claim 12, wherein after step "h." there is provided the further step "I." of resetting each machine, so as to reflect the inventory stocked in each machine in step "h.".

14. (previously amended): The method of servicing a plurality of vending machines situated at disparate locations relative to one another within a location area, comprising the steps of:

a) polling each said machine, compiling identification, and updated sales and cash flow data for each machine, providing an updated data stream;

b) transmitting said updated data stream from said separate transmitter located near each said machine at predetermined intervals, providing a plurality of updated transmissions within a reception area;

c) repeating steps a-b, while

d) providing a service vehicle having product inventory for said vending machines;

e) positioning said service vehicle within said reception area;

f) receiving said plurality of updated transmissions from each of said separate transmitters, providing a received data stream;

g) providing sales and cash flow data for each vending machine conveyed in said received data stream, providing a picking ticket;

h) pulling inventory from said service vehicle based upon said picking ticket, providing pulled inventory;

I) stocking each said vending machine as needed utilizing said pulled inventory.

15. (Original): The method of Claim 14, wherein after step "h." there is provided the further step "I." of resetting each machine, so as to reflect the inventory stocked in each said vending machine in step "h.".

16. (Original): The method of Claim 15, wherein after step "g." there is provided the additional step of providing a database of location information on each said vending machine, and discerning an optimal route order for the servicing of each said vending machine, and providing sales and cash flow data for each said vending machine in said optimal route order.

17. (Original): The method of servicing a vending machine, comprising the steps of:

a) polling said machine, compiling sales and cash flow data, providing a data stream;

b) transmitting said data stream from a transmitter, providing a plurality of transmissions within a reception area;

c) repeating steps a-b, while

d) providing a service vehicle having product inventory for said vending machine;

e) positioning said service vehicle within said reception area;

f) receiving said transmission from said transmitter, providing a received data stream;

g) providing sales and cash flow data for the vending machine, providing a picking ticket;

h) pulling inventory from said service vehicle based upon said picking ticket, providing pulled inventory;

I) stocking said vending machine utilizing said pulled inventory.

18. (Original): The method of Claim 16, wherein after step "h." there is provided the further

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step "I." of resetting each machine, so as to reflect the inventory stocked in each machine in step "h".

19. (previously amended): The method of servicing a vending machine, comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a data stream from the vending machine via a monitoring assembly;

b) removing data from said data stream unrelated to inventory, cash, operational status, or machine ID utilizing programming in said monitoring assembly, providing an abbreviated data stream;

c) preparing a transmission string including an identification of the machine, inventory, cash data, and/or operational status of said machine from said abbreviated data stream, and forwarding said transmission string to a transmitter module;

d) transmitting said transmission string to broadcast within limited transmission range within a limited, local area, and repeating said transmission to maintain a flow of data to a reception area; while

e) updating said transmission string as new data is received;

f) repeating steps a-e for other vending machines in the vicinity, so as to provide multiple transmissions to the reception area;

g) positioning a service vehicle within the reception area of said transmissions;

h) receiving said transmissions;

I) inputting said transmissions into a portable computer;

j) conveying said transmissions via said portable computer to a route operator operating the service vehicle;

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k) allowing said route operator to pull inventory and money change from said vehicle for servicing each of said vending machines so as to provide stock for filling said vending inventories.

20. (Original): The method of Claim 19, wherein there is further provided the additional step "l." of said portable computer indicating to the route operator which machine is to be serviced next based upon a calculation as to the best route to follow in servicing said vending machines, providing the next machine.

21. (prevously amended): The method of Claim 20, wherein there is further provided the additional step "m." of allowing the service personnel to convey said machine inventory to said next machine;

n) stocking said next machine, replenishing change, and resetting the machine;

o) repeating steps "l" through "n" until each of said vending machines is stocked;

p) returning to the service vehicle with the portable computer;

q) downloading data from the portable computer to a base office.

22. (Currently amended): The method of servicing a vending machine, comprising the steps of:

a) receiving DEX/USC_S data from a vending machine, providing received data;

b) compiling said data to discern activity on inventory, cash, and/or operational status, providing filtered received data;

c) preparing a transmission conveying said filtered received data, providing a transmission string;

d) transmitting said transmission string to a reception area in the vicinity of said vending

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machine;

e) repeating steps a-d, while

f) positioning a service vehicle within said reception area;

g) receiving said transmission;

h) utilizing data from said transmission to pull inventory and money change from said service vehicle for servicing said vending machine, providing pulled inventory;

I) conveying said pulled inventory to said vending machine;

j) stocking said vending machine

k) resetting said vending machine, resetting said filtered received data.